

## MR. HARRISON AND PROTECTION.

It will be noticed that President Harrison in his Southern tour rushes with apparently great enthusiasm over the prosperity of Virginia, and indulges in all manner of glowing hopes for the continuance of her growth in wealth and influence. He does not seem to think of the inconsistency of his present kind wishes when contrasted with his very recent hard efforts to destroy all chance of her future prosperity, and to bring the chaos of reconstruction days back again by his urgent advocacy of the passage of the Force bill. The animus of his new found friendship, however, is easily seen. He is a most anxious candidate for a re-nomination, and his present tour of the South and West is evidently with the purpose of strengthening himself in those two sections where he feels himself to be weakest, and, at the same time, to try and convert the people to the heresies of the McKinley robber protection law.

Although Mr. Harrison rather dogmatically attributes the wonderful strides onward which the South has made, despite the persistent efforts of himself and his party to retard her progress, to protection, he still insists that the currency question will be the main issue in the next presidential contest. In this Mr. Harrison gives utterance to a wish which is father to the thought. There are many unanswerable reasons why the currency problem will be subordinated to the tariff, and why tariff reform versus protection will be the main issue to be decided by the people in '92.

That this is so is incontrovertible. In the first place the currency problem, which simply means the free and unlimited coinage of silver, cannot be made a political issue in the next Presidential campaign. Both parties are equally divided upon it, and no more conclusive proof of this fact can be adduced than that President Harrison and ex-President Cleveland, each being recognized as a leading representative of his respective party, are in line in opposition to free silver coinage. How Harrison can run against Cleveland on an issue in which both are agreed is hard to understand. If the Democrats adopt a free coinage plank in their national platform they will offend the opponents of free coinage in their party, and the same is true of the Republicans. The silver question, therefore, is one which demands a compromise.

The most potent reason why tariff reform will be the great issue in 1892, however, is that the Democratic party will be guilty of the extreme of folly if they permitted it to be otherwise. Here they have before them a question raised in 1888, upon which the campaign of that year was fought, and, so far as the popular vote is concerned, won. In 1890, after the Republicans had bought the Presidency with Quay's corruption fund, and had made ultra protection their Shibboleth, the people decided against them with such a unanimous voice as to make the Democratic victory in that campaign phenomenal. For the Democrats, then, to allow themselves to be defrauded of the advantages they have gained, would not only be suicidal, but the height of political folly.

It is the climax of absurdity for Mr. Harrison to imagine otherwise. The campaign of '92 will be waged on the question whether the people prefer wholesome and whole-sale tariff reform, or a continuation of the inequities of the McKinley law, relieved by modified free trade under the name of reciprocity. On this issue the Democracy can appeal to the country with perfect confidence.

## OFFICIAL JUNKETING.

No recent incident illustrates more distinctly the fustian which has crept into the administration of the affairs of the general government than the fact that Mr. Blaine, the Secretary of State, is able to take possession of a Government vessel, the property of the people, and use it for a private excursion of his own down the waters of the Chesapeake bay. This excursion, it is stated, may be extended over a period as long as a week, during which the Secretary can direct its course as he chooses, either cruising to and fro or putting into Old Point, as may be most agreeable to him.

It is true that the Despatch has for some time been lying idle in the navy yard at Washington, but to equip her, man and coal her, will ensure a very considerable outlay of money from the Government treasury, with no object to be secured, but the gratification of the Secretary's desire for a change.

In ordering out this vessel for the purposes of his own individual pleasure, Mr. Blaine is following a precedent which has under the Republican control of Federal affairs grown into a custom, but there is no real justification for it in this fact. It is a departure from the spirit of our political institutions, and an imposition upon the people, which was illegal in its operation as it is wrong in principle.

It, thirty years ago, a Secretary of State had presumed to make use of Government property as Mr. Blaine is now doing, and doing without exciting general comment, it would have been considered as grave a departure from official propriety, so open a violation of the unwritten law of the land, that he would have exposed himself to a censure which would have probably cut short his political career. As it is, Mr. Blaine proceeds upon his aquatic jaunt with no misgiving as to the impropriety which his act of monopolizing Government property for his own private ends will create upon the public mind.

It is said that the Secretary has been overtaxed by the strain which has been put upon him during the course of the Italian diplomatic entanglement, and that his health demands some form of recreation. This is no good reason, however, why he should have a Government vessel placed at his disposal, or the money of the people expended with a view to the re-establishment of his strength. The custom is a dangerous one, even in the instance where it is a President, and not merely a member of the Cabinet, who uses the property of the Government for such a purpose. In both instances, it is wholly unnecessary, and is opposed to the essential principles upon which the Federal Government should be run.

If President and Cabinet officer are in need of a change on account of too arduous service in the performance of their official duties, then they should obtain this change at their own expense, and not at the expense of the people. The amount of public money which is expended in affording them opportunities for recreation is of small importance in itself, but the principle involved is of the highest importance. Already that principle has been grossly abused, and it is time that public sentiment should insist upon a return to the official simplicity and integrity which were characteristic of the Federal Government until the Republican party in 1861 came into power, and altered the letter and the spirit of the administration of Federal affairs.

Junior Morris, Democratic Governor-elect of Connecticut, who has been defrauded of his seat by the Republican Legislature of that State, has appealed to the State Supreme Court for an adjudication of his case. Many of his friends fear that he will fail to get justice, as the

judge before whom the case will be heard is an appointee of the bogus Governor Bulkeley, and it is expected that he will decide that there was no election, and that Bulkeley has a right to hold on until next year. In this connection, the Washington Post makes a very good suggestion, viz.: "that common sense ought to suggest to the two parties in Connecticut that they get together and proceed to change the organic law of the State so that a plurality of its voters may choose their State officers. The election laws of Connecticut and Rhode Island are sadly out of tune with the American idea of popular self-government."

## AN IGNORANT CORRESPONDENT.

Whatever may be said as to the motives which led the President to speak in the manner he did in passing through Southwest Virginia, or as to the inconsistency between the sentiments of his remarks at Roanoke and Bristol for instance, and the whole tenor of his conduct towards the South since his induction into office, no one familiar with the industrial progress which has been made here since Lynchburg and the Tennessee line will dispute the accuracy of the language which he used in referring to the growth of that section of country, or will consider the anticipations which he expressed as to its future development in the slightest degree exaggerated.

It is with surprise, therefore, that we observe that the Washington correspondent of the New York World, in commenting on Thursday upon the journey of the President through Southwest Virginia, seeks to discredit him by ridiculing the prospects of the country through which he was traveling and which he very truthfully and properly exalted. "At Bristol," remarks the correspondent referred to, "the President paid a touching tribute to the wealth of Mr. Elkins' speculative possessions, and it may be assumed that his words will be emblazoned in gold by the enterprising real estate boomers of the East, who have thus far met with little else than discouragement in their de-termined efforts to make people believe that the big hills of the Blue Ridge are, in the language of the President, now being rapidly transformed into busy manufacturing and commercial centers."

This is the first time that we have been informed that Mr. Elkins had any "speculative possessions" in Southwest Virginia, or that he was sufficiently interested in properties there to give his holdings such prominence as to have the whole section identified with his name. The Washington correspondent of the World is evidently laboring under the impression that Harrison was traveling at the time that his Roanoke and Bristol speeches were delivered, not over the Norfolk and Western railway, but over the Baltimore and Ohio, along the line of which road in West Virginia Elkins is well known to own enormous and very valuable tracts of coal land, and where he has spent large sums of money with a view of improving the property.

A similar degree of ignorance is exhibited in the statement that the real estate agents of the East, who have been interested in introducing Northern capital into Southwest Virginia, have "met with little else than discouragement." The numerous towns through which the Presidential party passed in their journey, towns which a few years ago were, in most instances, struggling villages or open fields, are a standing refutation of the assertion of the World correspondent. The astonishing growth of Southwest Virginia cannot be so easily discredited, for it is a fact that has only to be actually inquired into to admit of the fullest demonstration. It is with surprise and regret that we find that the World has permitted a statement to the contrary to find a prominent place in its columns.

If the managers of that journal are disposed to sustain their correspondent in the groundless assertions in which he has indulged, *The Times* would recommend that they send a special correspondent to Southwest Virginia to make a personal examination of the "busy manufacturing and commercial centers," upon which its Washington correspondent in his ignorance has cast a good deal of cheap ridicule.

General Benjamin Franklin Butler, better known in the days before brotherly love and affection had been restored between the Northern and Southern States as "the Beast," tells of an exciting race he once had with General Grant. He says that whenever Grant had been drinking his mind always ran on horses, and one dark night when he was particularly hilarious, he proposed a race with Butler from Meade's headquarters, several miles distant, to City Point. He says that Grant put spurs to his horse and started off, saying "come on," and he followed as best he might, but he never will forget the terrible ride he had.

General Butler is acknowledged to be a very smart man, but he must have been unusually dull not to have known that his race that night was a deliberate plan of General Grant to lose him in the darkness. There was method in Grant's madness.

It is gratifying to find that Secretary Tracy proposes to carry at once into practical operation the suggestions which he threw out in his recent Boston speech as to the necessity of making a radical change in the administration of the affairs of our navy-yards. Hitherto, these departments of the Government service have been notoriously the seat of the very worst form of the spoils system of conducting public affairs, but if Secretary Tracy's plan is enforced, an alteration will be made which can only result in the highest advantage to the public service. One of the very worst evils in the administration of the affairs of the people at large will be removed and new conditions established which will exercise an important influence upon the success of civil service reform in every department of the Government.

Premier Ribini, of Italy, expresses regret that so highly civilized a country as the United States should not fulfil the duties of justice and morality. The members of the New Orleans Mafia most likely think that the people of the United States are very strongly inclined to inflict very decided justice in a very summary way when occasion demands it, while as to morality, statistics are likely to prove that the United States are fully able to hold their own against Italy.

## The Times' Trade Edition.

Our big contemporary at the State capital is a wide awake and enterprising newspaper and is always on the alert for some means by which to advance the interests of its constituency. We do not believe that any better plan could be devised than the one adopted by *The Times*, and we are glad to see that the Richmond Chamber of Commerce has endorsed the scheme. Now let the people of Richmond, the merchants, business men, manufacturers, and all those who are interested in the business enterprises of their city commensurate with her importance. We venture to say that *The Times* that the interviews with our prominent merchants which we published in our recent trade edition, gave as much satisfaction as any other feature of the publication. We wish *The Times* every success in its most commendable undertaking.

## CREAM OF THE PRESS.

Comments on Current Topics Culled From Leading Journals.

(New York Tribune.)

It is related of Lord Granville that when certain commercial questions, touching the boundary of India, were under discussion between England and Russia, he invited a secretary of the Czar's embassy in London to visit Walmer Castle and bring with him certain maps to illustrate topographical intricacies with which that official was particularly familiar. "Vanity Fair" thus describes the incident: "After breakfast on the morning of his arrival, Lord Granville and his guest retired to his library, where the elaborate maps, which were on a grand scale, were spread upon the floor. Lord Granville paid the utmost attention to the reading of the various reports on the subject, which were illustrated by constant references to spots pointed out on the maps. At length, when the Minister appeared most deeply interested in the somewhat desultory and library-door was suddenly opened, and in burst the children, then very young, who had probably been released by their governess. In another moment what was the visitor's surprise to discover his host sprawling over him to catch the children, who were dodging him around the legs of the table. Lord Granville had had quite enough of Central Asian geography for that day, and accordingly proposed a ride before lunchtime. It was now his turn to be master of the situation, and he led the way over some fences with which his guest was somewhat less familiar than he was with the Pases of the Hindoo-Koosh."

## A New Stone.

(Wilmington N. C. Messenger.)

A new stone has been constructed in London upon entirely new principles. It is three feet high and about thirteen inches in diameter. By its complete construction is attained and it burns coal. A description says that the lower portion alone burns, and on that part the very smallest volume of air is admitted. While this fresh air is not sufficient to lower the temperature, it becomes itself sufficiently warm to possess affinity for combustion. It is a new stone, and the heat is utilized, as less than a per cent. escapes up the chimney. The inventor is a Londoner named de Clausen. He says that if his system should be adopted throughout Europe alone the saving in fuel would annually pay the taxes of the whole continent three times over.

## The President at Chattanooga.

(Washington Post.)

The President and his party enjoyed a genuine ovation at Chattanooga Wednesday, in which the whole city took a hand without distinction of party. Mr. Harrison responded to this collective demonstration of hospitality in one of his happiest speeches. His utterances upon such occasions are always sensible, graceful and appropriate.

His references to the war and its results—the Chattanooga of 1861 and the Chattanooga of 1891—were particularly well chosen and well received. There had been two great battles, he said, one at Antietam and the other at Vicksburg, and the last is greater than the first. There was going on a "unification by commerce" that will in time erase all differences and make us in sentiment, as in community of interest, one people.

On President Harrison's sincere in these expressions, and he must have realized as he stood before his enthusiastic and responsive listeners, gathered in a vast multitude to do him honor, how much wiser and better the process of unification by the gentle influences of peace and commerce is, as compared with the policy of unkindness and force which the late Congress sought to impose upon the South in a spirit of reckless partisanship. How much less enthusiastic, how much less responsive had been his reception if he had been obliged to climb over the bars of a Federal electric wire, to get into the gateway of the new South. May we not hope, from the felicitous and fraternal temper of the President's remarks, that his indorsement of that contemplated legislation has been withdrawn for reconsideration?

## Making "Live" Wires "Dead."

(Baltimore Sun.)

A Bostonian has invented a device to insure the safety of people and animals traveling along streets and roads from the "live" electric wire when it breaks and falls, putting life in jeopardy. It is an attachment to be connected with the wires at intervals of about 120 feet, and consists of a piece of rubber about eight inches in length, in the center of which is a spiral spring, to one end of which is attached an insulated wire connected with a piston in the center. At the other end of the mechanical device is a copper wire. The idea is to connect it with the electric wires attached to the trolley poles. When attached to the wire the spiral spring is pulled back to its full extent, and in case a wire should break the end upon which is the piston portion of the device recoils instantly to the other end, thus making the wire "dead" again, thus making the wire which had fallen a "dead" one. It also claimed that if a broken electric wire falls upon a fire-alarm wire with the new construction attached it will not interfere with the working of the fire-alarm.

## Australian Rabbit Pest.

(Florida Times-Union.)

The rabbit pest in Australia continues to be as serious as ever. Despite vast outlays that have been made by the government, these mischievous animals increase at an alarming rate. A North Carolina man who has just returned from Australia, remembering the suffering of the colonies, has advised that twenty thousand of them should be employed by the Australian Government, and he states that he was authorized to employ that number at \$1 per day for five years, they to be furnished with breeding-shots and ammunition, and to be set free in the most remote parts. That would be a paradise for the negroes, but the Australian Government should think three times at least before setting negro immigration on foot.

## Tariff Reform, Not Free Trade.

(Boston Herald.)

Congressman Crisp, of Georgia, does not seem to be troubling his head very much at the policy of the tariff. He is a little tired of his working. Attempts to represent division as existing in the Democratic party on this point are only mischievous, and are meant to be so. If the Democratic party is wise it will not attempt ultra action on the tariff. What ever may be said of the right or wrong of such proceedings, the nation is not ready for it, and state-man-like action, therefore, will not urge it. Tariff reform means freer trade, and, though probably it will go farther in its aim in the present Congress than did the Mills bill, it will not attempt full free trade. The truly free traders are generally not the Democrats, but the farmers' Alliance supporters, and they have often been driven from the Republican party by their unreasonable action in support of protection.

## New Kentucky Constitution.

(Atlanta Journal.)

The following are some of the provisions of the Constitution adopted by the century Convention, which adjourned a six months session on Saturday last. The issue of stock except for money or other value at the current market price is forbidden, also the giving or transportation of other assets to persons in liquidation of the estate of a deceased person or railroad companies and pooling of assets for liquidation. Bank officers who receive money for deposit after the bank is known to be insolvent are made guilty of felony, a railroad commission to operate under exclusive constitutional provisions is established.

## The McKinley Bill Caused It.

(Philadelphia Ledger.)

The riot in Bradford, a quiet English textile town, is something very unusual. It was probably provoked in part by a misunderstanding. The weavers are out on a strike and proposed to hold a meeting in the public square. This was prohibited by the authorities, because the square was considered a dangerous place for a public meeting, but the strikers seem to have interpreted the prohibition as a personal affront, intended to interfere with the right of the people peacefully to assemble, and therefore resisted the police and thus brought on a riot, to suppress which the military had to be used on. Of course the cause of the original disturbance was very little. It is quite probable that the McKinley bill was at the bottom of it, for the new tariff in this country is being used as an excuse—possibly from necessity—for putting down wages in various English industries. The Bradford men, however, managed to get along very well with their employees, and have been exceptionally lib-

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